



Space Observer

Friday, July 26, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

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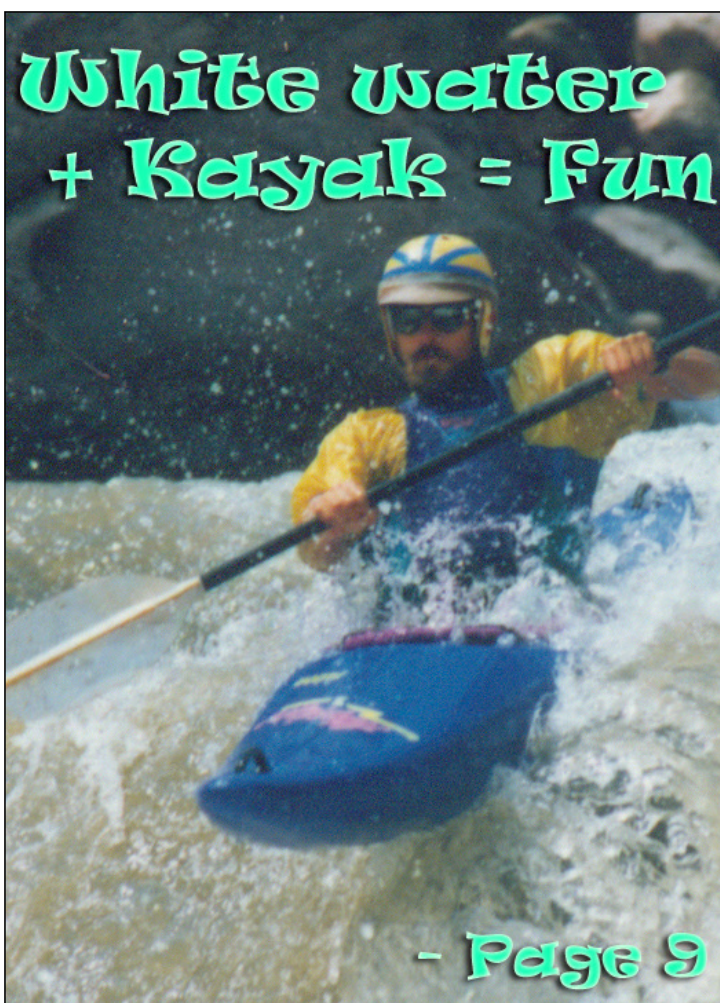
Myers says future looks bright for space community

- Page 3



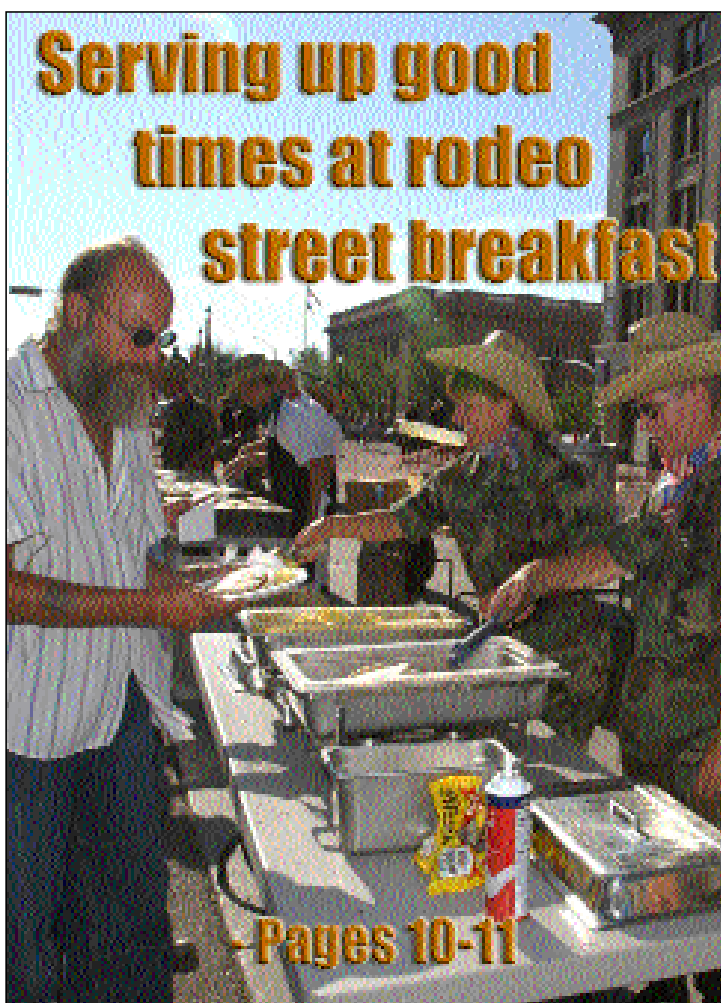
Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

White water + Kayak = Fun



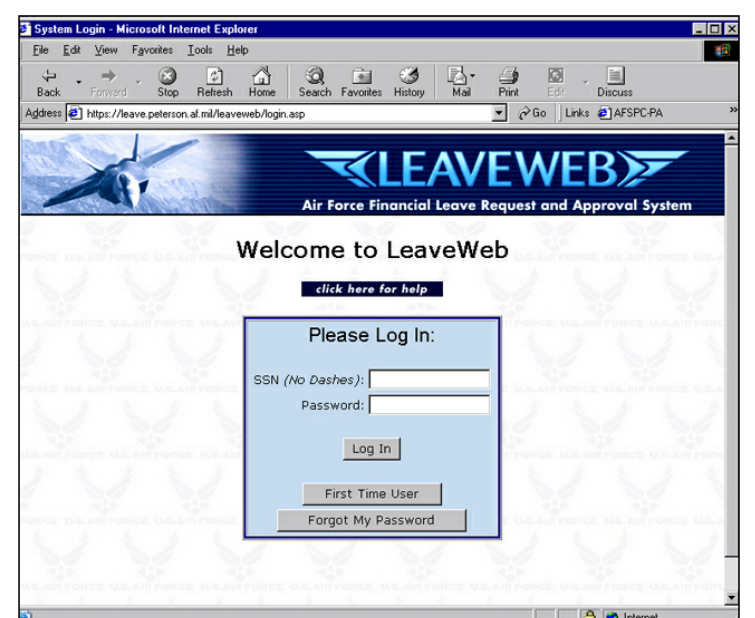
- Page 9

Serving up good times at rodeo street breakfast



- Pages 10-11

Photo by Joe Fischer



LeaveWeb debuts at Peterson

-Page 7

Inside This Issue:
Weekend Weather:

Cover Story...3
Today...83°

Blotter...5
Saturday...86°

At Your Service...9
Sunday...80°



Action Line



Photo by Eugene Chavez

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing commander, welcomes Admiral James O. Ellis Jr., U.S. Strategic Command commander.

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander—use it wisely!

Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible—with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

If you can't get satisfactory results, then call (719) 556-7777. You may also fax your question to 556-7848. Though it's not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn't printed. However, all calls will be investigated and worked, anonymous or not.

Clinic child concern

QUESTION: Why doesn't the clinic see children under 2 on weekends? Last weekend, my one-year-old daughter came down with an eye cold and a fever, and when we called the clinic on Sunday, we were told she could not be seen because she was under 2, and we should take her to Memorial Hospital. I would think that an infant would be seen at a clinic that is close, rather than having to drive over 15 minutes away.

ANSWER: Thank you for your very important concern. The 810th MDOS Clinic has already identified this issue, and has formed a working group that will consider staffing the weekend clinic with Pediatric Clinic personnel. The duty of the health care community is similar to yours as a parent—providing your child with the most appropriate care available. Their intent in your case was not to turn you away from the Peterson Clinic, but to direct you to the most appropriate care for your daughter. For

situations involving children who require care on weekends, we currently have a contract with Memorial Hospital for after-hours pediatric care.

Not a drop to spare

QUESTION: Why aren't we enforcing the same water restrictions on base as the city of Colorado Springs and the local area?

ANSWER: We applaud your concern about the water restrictions that are being implemented this summer around town and on base. As we have printed weekly in the Space Observer and screen on the Commander's Access Channel, our policy mirrors the restrictions set by the City of Colorado Springs.

Specifically, homes with an address ending in an odd number can water from midnight to 9 a.m. and from 7 p.m. to midnight on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Homes with an address ending in an even number can water from midnight to 9 a.m. and from 7 p.m. to midnight on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

There is no watering on Mondays.

If you notice violations, please provide the address and type of violation to the Housing Flight and they will handle it appropriately. Please call 556-7761, 556-7947, 556-7946 or 556-4777. If you have further questions, you may also call Ms. Colleen Miller at 556-4332.

Dry days = soiled sedans

QUESTION: Since Stage II water restrictions were implemented, I have seen residents of dormitory Building 1166 washing their personal dirty vehicles. Is this a permitted practice?

ANSWER: Thank you for your concern in this time of drought. During a Stage I water restriction, fund raising car washes and all washing of personal vehicles are prohibited - this includes housing and dorm residents. The Services Car Wash remains open in Stage I; its hours are reduced in Stage II (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays); and it will be shut down in Stage III. If you have any further questions or additional areas for water conservation, please contact Mr. Tim Pugh, Utility Engineer, 21 CES/CEOE, 556-4158, Fax: 556-8078, E-mail: timothy.pugh@peterson.af.mil.

21st Space Wing



GSU At a Glance

Unit: 20th Space Surveillance Squadron

Location: Eglin, AFB, Fla.

Mission: The 20th SPSS tracks about 8,300 space objects in any weather. The unit is located on Eglin Air Force Base, which rests on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's Northwest Panhandle.

A tenant organization, the 20th SPSS is some 35 miles east of the main portion of Eglin Air Force Base, which is referred to by locals as "Eglin Main."

Surrounding cities include Fort Walton Beach, Shalimar, Valparaiso, Niceville, Villa Tasso, Choctaw Beach, Portland, Freeport, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Mary Esther, Panama City, and Pensacola. All are within a forty-five minute drive of Eglin Air Force Base.

The 20th SPSS operates and maintains the AN/FPS-85 Phased Array Radar. The transmitter array contains 5,928 transmitter antennas in a 78 x 76 square array and 5,184 transmitter modules installed in a 72 x 72 square array. The receiver array contains 19,500 receiver antennas and 4,660 receiver modules.

The 20 SPSS operates and maintains the phased array space surveillance system dedicated to tracking over 8,300 near-earth and deep-space objects.

It executes a space control mission by performing all-weather, day-night location and tracking of man-made objects, and supports U.S. Space Command commander in chief and theater warfighters' requirements through continuous surveillance of orbiting satellites.



Courtesy photo

On the catwalk

Capt. John Tayman (far left) and 1st Lt. Sean Anderson, 20th SPSS conduct an educational tour for United Kingdom Air Cadet Squadron students on top of a 14-story radar building.



Space Observer

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A Moment in Time: July



■ On July 26, 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 which created the Department of the Air Force.

■ On July 27, 1909, the first official test flight of the Army's first airplane took place with Orville Wright as the pilot

■ On July 29, 1953, two days after the Korean War ends, the Air Force announces Far East Air Forces shot down 839 MiG015 jet fighters, probably destroying 154, damaging 919 in a 36 month span.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office

Joint Chiefs' Chairman visits Peterson

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – “If September 11 taught us anything, [it taught us] we ought to be flexible enough to change to do what’s right. That’s what we think we’re doing,” said Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a recent press conference here.

Flexibility was a key point for the general July 19 as he discussed the upcoming merger of U.S. Space Command with U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as well as the stand-up of Northern Command at Peterson. Both of those events take place Oct. 1.

Some U.S. Space Command people will move to Offutt as a result of the merger, however, Myers doesn’t expect a large change in the Peterson Complex population.

“This is a time for a lot of change, but I would say, change for the good,” he said. “If you look at how large Space Command is today, and what a footprint they have here in Colorado, and you look at standing up a new Northern Command, the numbers look like they’re going to come out about even, maybe even a slight growth.”

As a former commander of Air Force Space Command and commander in chief of U.S. Space Command and North America Aerospace Defense Command, Myers said he was convinced the move of U.S. Space Command to Nebraska is best for military space.

“I have no doubt about the importance of the space mission, and I have absolutely no worry, in any way, that it’s going to be diminished by the things we’ve done here,” he said. “I don’t see it as a loss for Colorado Springs. I see it as a gain.”

He stated that, in his mind, instead of short-changing military space, the new command in Omaha would instead help the space community realize its full potential.

“The roles and responsibilities that reside here in Space Command are going to endure. What we’re challenging people to do in this new command, is to take it to the next level. Things like space control and enhancement, and all those missions we’ve had in the past — a lot of those are going to stay the same,” he said.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to military and civilian media representatives during a press conference on the flightline July 19.

He reiterated that the reorganization for a new U.S. Strategic Command was not a mere merging of assets.

“We’re thinking about them as a new command,” Myers said. “All those roles and responsibilities they have are going to be taken to this new command, but we’ll be doing no degradation of the space mission. In fact, the only limits to how far we go with this new command will be people’s imagination, and what they set for our country.

And, of course, the placement of Northern Command, responsible for protecting America from

outside attack, at Peterson will do nothing to diminish the future of the region.

“Can you imagine a more important command in this day and age or one that’s going to be more relevant in the 21st Century, given the type of threat we saw on September 11?” he said about NORTH-COM.

“We’ll have a unified command responsible for security, within the roles and missions the Department of Defense normally has for security [overseas assets]...for the United States. We’ve never had that before.”



Photo by Senior Airman Shane Sharp

Water ways

Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, gathers with other community members to receive 2002 Water Conservation Champion awards from Colorado Springs Utilities. Peterson Air Force Base was recognized for the base's outstanding efforts in water conservation.



CLOSURES

The car wash on Paine Street will be closed throughout the week of July 29-Aug. 3 for upgrade work.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

During Stage II, residents should water their lawns in the early morning or late evening only. If you live in an even-numbered house, you may water on Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Watering is not permitted Mondays, and water use will be closely monitored.

Also during Stage II, the car wash will be closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Watch the base marquees, the Commander's Access Channel, and the *Space Observer* for the latest water restriction stages and changes.

RETIREE

APPRECIATION DAY

A Retiree Appreciation Day will be Aug. 24 at the Air Force Academy.

For more information,

call 556-7153.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GAMES

Volunteers are needed for a variety of duties in support of the Rocky Mountain State Games, which are scheduled for Aug. 2-4.

To volunteer, call 634-7333, extension 1009.

OUTDOOR REC

Off-highway vehicle camping trip, Aug. 2, 3 and 4. Space is limited to the first five people who sign up. Ride ATVs and camp for two nights at \$140 per person.

TAXIS AND FOOD DELIVERY

The 21st Security Forces Squadron has developed a process to allow local city bus routes, taxis and food delivery drivers on base.

For food delivery, provide the driver with an accurate phone number so the entry controller can call you when the food is at the gate.

Once the delivery is verified, the driver will be allowed

on base. If you are unreachable, the delivery will be turned away. All taxis entering base will be searched.

For details, call Security Forces at 556-4000.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

A crime prevention golf tournament is scheduled for Aug. 2 at the Silver Spruce Golf Course. It is a two-person scramble shotgun start at 8 a.m. Cost is \$35 per player. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tony Jarrell at 556-3484.

SNCO WORKSHOP

There will be a senior noncommissioned officer workshop Aug. 8-9, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Enlisted Club.

For details, call Master Sgt. Kristin Clark at 556-8474.

NEWSPAPER SURVEY

Here's your opportunity to tell the newspaper staff what you like and dislike about the *Space Observer*.

This survey is designed to help the staff include information you want to see in the paper. Log on to www.afnews



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Three's company

Generals' wives from left to right: Beccy Lord, Mary Jo Myers and Karen Eberhart visited the brand new Peterson temporary lodging facilities, Friday. The TLFs' were one of many stops on their tour of Peterson's facilities.

af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm

For details, call Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen at 556-4351.

AERO CLUB

Anniversary of the Purple Heart, veterans get a discount

on Cessna planes, Aug. 1.

CORRECTION

The Yard of the Month photo in the July 19 edition of the Space Observer was incorrectly credited. The correct photographer is Master Sgt. Dave Cherry.



At the
Base
Chapel



Protestant
Liturgical Worship,
8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship,
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic
Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Religious Education
Sunday programs
resume after
Labor Day

**For more
information
Call the chapel at
556-4442 for available
chapel programs.

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are presented to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on our base.

The following entries were taken from the 21st Security Forces Squadron Police Blotter for the week ending July 19:

Wishy-washy water – July 19

An airman notified security forces and stated a back passenger window of a Crash Fire Truck had been broken by a stream of high pressure water gone astray from another Fire Truck during a fire department training session.

Apparently, the damaged window was caused by a rogue water turret on the Crash Truck. While training on the operation of the water and bumper turrets, a faulty switch caused the water streaming out of the turret to develop a mind of its own.

Wanderin’ Wallet... - July 19

A government civilian

contacted security forces to report a lost leather wallet containing one Government credit card, two personal credit cards, one driver’s license, one civilian ID, three dollars, and one checkbook. The civilian had left the wallet on the roof of the car while driving to the Base Gym. The wallet was last seen riding on the hood of a Grand Marquis headed eastbound on Highway 24...

Wrong Turn! - July 20

A civilian, without ID, drove to the West Gate and was stopped and questioned by security forces.

The driver had no base affiliation and had apparently been trying to find the Colorado Springs Airport, when he made a wrong turn and ended up at the West Gate.

Looking more than “lost,” security forces performed a field sobriety test on the wandering indi-

vidual. He was held for further testing and his vehicle was subsequently towed. No summons was issued pending the test for alcohol level.

Temper, temper – July 20

When security forces issued a traffic ticket in the early morning hours Saturday, a law-breaking individual became non-compliant and verbally abusive to the officers. He proceeded to rev his engine, place it into gear, and speed off the installation.

Colorado Springs Police was notified for assistance to apprehend the individual and escort him to base.

The rebel without a cause was advised of his rights for disorderly conduct and disrespect to a Security Forces member, in accordance with Article 31/UCMJ and the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Who ... Me? – July 21

A Chief Master Sergeant drove to the West Gate and reported he was involved in a hit and run vehicle accident in the Commissary parking lot. He stated that the hot-to-trot driver backed into him and then fled toward the vicinity of the dormitories.

Security forces found the perpetrator’s car when conducting a search of the dormitory and fitness center parking lots.

When they tracked down the individual in the fitness center to ask if he owned the car in question and if he’d been in an accident, he replied “yes” to both questions. The individual was then promptly apprehended for leaving the scene of an accident.

That’s Just Batty – July 20

A base housing resident called security forces to catch a bat loose in her house. Repeated attempts to locate the winged rodent proved futile. The individual was advised to keep some garlic on hand and be careful of open windows at night.

***Editor’s note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*



AFSPC commander emphasizes OPSEC



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: AFSPC/CC
150 Vandenberg Street, Suite 1105
Peterson AFB CO 80914-4020

SUBJECT: Operations Security (OPSEC) Policy Memorandum

1. Information is a key aspect of our mission. The information that is most often used against us is not classified information; rather, it's that which is openly available to anyone who knows where to look and what to ask. Sometimes we do not realize how much information is given away by predictable behavior, casual conversations on unclassified communications systems and what we post on the internet. Unclassified information can often be compiled to reveal sensitive information which provide our adversaries with insight into our operations.
2. Operations Security is everyone's responsibility and our first line of defense against hostile intelligence collection efforts. The AFSPC Critical Information List (CIL) is attached. This information is considered unclassified, but sensitive and must be protected to prevent adverse impact on our mission.
3. The threat is real and the information is critical to national security. OPSEC countermeasures, such as the use of secure communications and shredders, should be integrated into our daily activities. Also, beware of having work conversations in open environments where individuals without the need to know might overhear. We depend on everyone to make OPSEC a natural way of assuring successful mission accomplishment.

critical
OPSEC is important
to mission success

[Signature]
LANCE W. LORD
General, USAF
Commander

Eberhart to receive award for military space achievement

By Petty Officer 1st Class Beverly Allen, USN
NORAD/USSPACECOM Public Affairs

Gen. Ed Eberhart, Commander-in-Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command and Commander United States Space Command, will receive the General James V. Hartinger Award during the National Defense Industrial Association, Rocky Mountain Chapter's Salute to Space Ball, Sept. 27.

The award named after the first commander of Air Force Space Command and is presented annually to recognize outstanding and enduring individual accomplishments towards the advancement of military space initiatives.

"General Eberhart was selected for this prestigious award due to his sustained leadership, vision, and influence on national space policy, people and programs that have inspired NORAD/USSPACECOM and AFSPACECOM to new levels of performance and achievement," said Larry Hungerford, NDIA president.

"General Eberhart's guidance and vision in redirecting and revitalizing US and DoD spacelift efforts; pioneering improvements to global navigation for military, civil, and commercial users; and increased focus on space-based capabilities in wargames, experiments, and demonstrations to broaden the understanding of space systems and importance to warfighters will be specifically highlighted during presentation of the Hartinger Award," said Hungerford. "He will also be cited for his tireless efforts to integrate and expand the understanding of space contributions with national leaders, as well as fostering relationships internationally to enhance US security and world stability."

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of NDIA is part of a national association representing all facets of the defense and technology industrial base. NDIA has been involved in defense technology and policy since 1919. The association's membership base consists of 950 companies and over 24,000 individuals covering the entire spectrum of the defense and national industrial bases from government and foreign nations with whom the United States, through DoD, has a Memorandum of Understanding. Included in the association's membership are organizations that sell goods and services to the various Departments of the Executive Branch of government. Also included are organizations who advise and assist these companies or who desire to develop a relationship with them through the networking opportunities inherent in association membership.

For more information, visit the NDIA website at <http://www.ndia.org>.



New leave request process debuts at Peterson

**By Tech. Sgt.
Gino Mattorano**

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Air Force members will soon be able to request leave without ever having to leave their desks, thanks to a new computer-based program called LeaveWeb.

LeaveWeb is the latest in automated administrative processes that should save the Air Force thousands of man hours per base, each year, according to Tech. Sgt. Jon Swanson, 21st Comptroller Squadron.

LeaveWeb will allow Air Force members to submit an ordinary leave request through a web browser to request and obtain approval for leave.

"The first time you log onto the Website, you'll have to fill out a form with all of the information that goes on a leave form," said Swanson. "The system will save this information so the next time you log on, you won't need to keep inputting the same data."

Once the member completes the form, it generates an e-mail that goes to the supervisor who is directed to the website to review and approve or disapprove the request. Next, the request is sent to the unit leave monitor for processing.

"The leave monitor checks the request and verifies that it has been approved by the supervisor and then validates and inputs the leave request into a database that keeps track of everyone who is on leave," said Swanson. "The system will generate a leave number

which is sent back to the member who can print out a copy to take with them while they're on leave."

In the near future, nearly all ordinary leave requests will be submitted through LeaveWeb, according to Swanson, but for now, requests for convalescent, permissive or emergency leave will still be submitted to unit leave monitors with the Air Force Form 988, Leave Request/Authorization.

"When members return from leave, the system will generate an e-mail reminder to let them know they need to verify that the number of leave days they took was correct," said Swanson. "If there is no change, the member annotates it on the form, the supervisor verifies, and then it's sent to the unit leave monitor for validation and submission to finance for update of the member's leave balance."

Unit leave monitors are currently being trained on the system, which is scheduled for implementation Aug. 12.

"This will give the monitors time to learn the new process and train members in their units to submit leave requests with the new system," said Swanson. "Once we fully implement LeaveWeb, members will be required to use it to request ordinary leave."

"Units that don't have access to 21Net will still submit (Air Force Form) 988s until we set up a means for them to submit requests through LeaveWeb."

In addition to making it

easier for members to submit requests, LeaveWeb will also make it easier for finance personnel to update members' leave balances.

"Without LeaveWeb, we had to manually input every leave transaction into the system, and then submit them to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to have the leave subtracted from members' leave balances," said Swanson. "Once we implement the new system, it will automatically track and reconcile leaves for all units. This will help to decrease our workload considerably."


For more information about LeaveWeb, contact your unit leave monitor. 



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

Tech. Sgt. Jon Swanson, 21st Comptroller Squadron, teaches unit leave monitors how to use LeaveWeb to submit leave forms for Air Force members.



Courtesy photo

An extensively modified Boeing 747-400F, known as the Airborne Laser, circled over western Kansas for an hour and 22 minutes during its maiden flight July 21, taking the first steps in becoming the world's first directed-energy combat aircraft.

Airborne Laser completes first flight

WICHITA, Kan. — A modified Boeing 747-400F known as the Airborne Laser took to the skies for an hour and 22 minutes during its maiden flight July 21, taking the initial steps in becoming the world's first directed-energy combat aircraft.

It was the first time the aircraft had flown since arriving here Jan. 22, 2000, straight off the Boeing assembly line.

The flight was the first in a test series to prove the aircraft still performs like a Boeing 747 despite significant structural and operational changes made during its two-and-a-half-year stay at the Boeing Maintenance and Modification Center adjacent to McConnell Air Force Base.

"This successful flight is truly a milestone in the history of ABL," said Col. Ellen Pawlikowski, ABL program office director at Kirtland AFB, N.M. "It represents a major step forward toward our ultimate goal of shoot-

ing down a ballistic missile with a beam of ultra-powerful light by the end of 2004."

The ABL is scheduled to take its place as a principal member of the boost-phase segment of the Missile Defense Agency's layered system designed to protect the country and U.S. troops against enemy ballistic missiles, Pawlikowski said. The ABL's task is to destroy just-launched missiles by focusing its high-energy laser beam on the pressurized fuel tank, causing it to rupture and explode, in effect causing the missile to kill itself.

ABL, now under the MDA's management, is being developed by a team composed of the Boeing Co., TRW, and Lockheed Martin Corp., the colonel said. Boeing supplied the aircraft and the sophisticated software system which will be the brains of the weapon system. TRW built the megawatt-class lasers that comprise the system's kill mechanism,

while Lockheed Martin built the complicated maze of mirrors and lenses used to guide the lasers to the target and the turret that will house the system's 1.5-meter telescope.

Once testing has been completed, the ABL will be turned over to the Air Force, the first in a visualized fleet ready for use as a first line of defense against missile attack, according to Pawlikowski.

Although the aircraft is generically known as ABL, its official name is YAL-1A, which, in Air Force nomenclature, stands for Prototype Attack Laser, Model 1-A, Pawlikowski said. If testing goes well, it will be followed by a so-far undetermined number of similar aircraft.

The plane will have the number 00-0001 painted on the tail, signifying it is the first new military aircraft of the millennium.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



SECAF, CSAF: Gender irrelevant to mission accomplishment

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The importance of women in today's Air Force is not lost on Air Force senior leadership. In fact, said the service's chief of staff recently, women have played key roles in the Air Force's performance over the past decade.

"We've won three wars in the last 10 years," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper during an interview taped for the July 22 and Aug. 5 editions of Air Force Television News. "We had plenty of women not just flying the airplanes, but fixing the airplanes, guarding the gate and in all roles."

According to Air Force Personnel Center demographics, the population of women in the Air Force has increased from 33,000 in 1975 to more than 70,000. As a result, women now serve in nearly every Air Force career field, including such traditionally male-dominated career fields as aircraft maintenance.

"I visited some [B-1 Lancers] overseas in the gulf," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche. "I remember a young mechanic...I said, 'How about these engines?' She said, 'If you say anything bad about these engines, you deal with me.' And I looked down at her with her three stripes, and I said, 'Yes, ma'am!' "Absolutely impressive."

The number of women in the cockpit has also increased. The 458 female pilots account for about 3.7 percent of the total pilots in the service. Less than 10 years ago, that figure was only 1.6 percent. Jumper, a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, commented on the role of the female pilots he has flown with, and the irrelevance of gender to the pilot career field.

"I've flown against some of the [female] fighter pilots before, and they do a magnificent job," he said. "If you want to fly an airplane, and that's your passion, it shouldn't matter what your gender is."

Roche agreed. "The intellectual content of what we do is so high that [gender] makes no difference," the secretary said. "(We have) a force where there is room for people based on their merit."



AT YOUR SERVICE

Get river wet and wild now

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Eskimo roll, hull, line, eddy, broach, blade, and rapids are just a few words and techniques new kayakers will learn this August and September.

Outdoor Recreation's kayaking classes will start this August with a four-day class at the base aquatics center, followed by a trip on the Parkdale River.

Currently these classes are full, however, if there is enough demand, Outdoor Rec will start another class.

Classes run four nights a week for two hours. Here, beginner students learn hands-on kayaking techniques.

Each student rides a



Photos courtesy of Outdoor Recreation

Above and below: After completing initial training kayaker students from last year battle the Class III rapids found along the Parkdale.

standard enclosed, hard-shell, one-person kayak.

Students also have the

opportunity to ride Funyaks. A Funyak is an inflatable equivalent to a kayak, without an enclosure.

The classes are \$60 per person and are open to all Department of Defense military, civil service and family members.

"These trips are designed for beginners who want the challenge of white-water kayaking," said Keith Henderson, Outdoor Recreation, "Plus, nobody has ever left without having fun."

Once indoor pool classes are finished, students are driven up to Parkdale, where they put their knowledge to the test.

Parkdale is a stretch of the Arkansas River just upstream from Royal Gorge.

At Parkdale, students conquer Class III rapids such as *Gosh Awful*, *Shark's Tooth*, *Spikebuck*, *Devil's Hole* and *Surprise*.

Students also have the opportunity to kayak Parkdale more than once that same day.

All trips include a lunch from Outdoor Recreation.

Also call to find out about on-going whitewater trips along the Parkdale and Royal Gorge.

For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867.



SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers' Club		July 26-- Live Maine lobster night. Reservations required.	August 14-- Mongolian barbecue, 6-8 p.m.	August 29 Mongolian barbecue, 6-8 p.m
At the Enlisted Club		July 31-- Country buffet, 5-7 p.m., \$5.95 for members.	August 14-- Mexican buffet, 5-7 p.m.	August 15-- Mongolian barbecue, 6-8 p.m.
At Outdoor Recreation		July 27-- Royal Gorge rafting trip. Call for reservations.	July 28-- Royal Gorge rafting trip. Call for reservations.	August 1 & 29-- Discover scuba classes, 8-10 p.m. \$10 per person.

This Week

Saturday

- Korean War Veterans Day
- Pool tournament, 6 p.m., at the Youth Center

Monday

- Mothers on the Move exercise group. Call the Family Advocacy Center for times and locations.

Tuesday

- Sponsorship training, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Resume review class, 9-11 a.m., at the Family Support Center.

Wednesday

- Small business seminar, 8 a.m.-noon, at the Family Support Center.
- Teen Sports Club Outdoor Basketball, 3 p.m., at the Youth Center.

Thursday

- Job orientation, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Play Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the chapel.
- Stress Management, 1-4 p.m., at the Shriever AFB HAWC.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week



Weighing your options

New retirement choices offer advantages, disadvantages

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Many Air Force members are now being offered the chance to choose their retirement plan, thanks to the Fiscal year 2000 Defense Authorization Act. The act reformed the military retirement system, allowing members to choose their retirement system based on the date they initially entered military service.

The retired pay reform allows members to choose the REDUX system if they entered the service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, upon reaching their fif-

teenth year of service beginning in 2001.

Some individuals have circumstances that may complicate determining their service entrance date. For example, U.S. Air Force Academy graduates who entered the Academy prior to August 1986 are under the High-3 system.

Other High-3 members who entered the military prior to August 1986 are ROTC graduates who began an ROTC scholarship program or enlisted as a reservist in the Senior ROTC program; officers and enlisted members who separated and, after a break in service,

rejoined the military, even if their pay date was adjusted to a date of August 1986 or later. Finally, members who enlisted and entered the Delayed Entry Program before August 1986 only qualify for High-3.

The main difference between the two retirement systems is percentage return.

Under REDUX, those choosing to take the bonus are eligible to receive a taxable \$30,000 Career Status Bonus at 15 years of service. Those choosing to take the bonus will make a 40 percent retirement income after 20 years of service. REDUX eligible members

declining the bonus will be eligible for a 50 percent retirement at 20 years.

High-3 doesn't have a bonus, but gives members 50 percent of their average basic pay for their highest three earning years before retiring after 20 years of service.

If the member chooses the REDUX bonus, they must still remain on active duty for 20 years of service, just like under the High-3 system.

Under both REDUX and High-3, retirement pay is a percentage of average monthly base pay over the highest 36 months.

The multiplier under REDUX comes closer to the High-3 multiplier the longer the individual stays in beyond 20 years, where the multipliers becoming equal at 30 years.

Eligible individuals need to determine which retirement option is better when they reach 14.5 years to 15 years of service. The REDUX option should be carefully considered for those individuals who plan longer careers. Longer time in service means that a smaller percentage deduction will

occur for future retired pay.

"Career Status Bonus otherwise known as REDUX, has benefits as well as drawbacks," said Technical Sgt. Sally Bragg, Military Personnel Flight, "We suggest that you read and understand the program very carefully when making your selection and go through financial counseling with Family Support Center (mandatory in AFSPC)."

Under REDUX, the \$30,000 bonus is usually taxed at a federal and, if applicable, a state tax rate. Members may prevent this by placing the bonus into a Thrift Savings Plan.

Other rules and limits may apply to those in receipt of non-taxable pays in a Combat Zone or Qualified Hazardous Area. Consult Service Tax authorities and TSP information sources for more specifics. Members may also refer to www.tsp.gov.

For questions, call Bragg at 556-6758 or, visit <http://militarypay.dtic.mil/actives/index.html> for more information.

Sand dunes provide contrast to Colorado mountains

**By Tech. Sgt.
Gino Mattorano**
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Most people have heard of an oasis in the desert, but what about a desert in the middle of an oasis? Nestled at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Southwestern Colorado are nearly 40 square miles of desert landscape.

The Great Sand Dunes National Monument lies in stark contrast to the mountain scenery and the San Luis Valley, and provides numerous opportunities for sightseeing and recreation.

Located near Alamosa, Colo., the dunes are North America's tallest, standing more than 700 feet at their highest point, according to the National Park Service.

Geologists estimate the dunes began to form nearly 12,000 years ago when the Rio Grande River spread sand across the San Luis Valley. Heavy winds carried the sand and dropped it off at the base of the Sangre de Cristo

Mountains. Despite frequent heavy winds in the area, moisture acts as a stabilizer, maintaining the height and contours of the dunes.

The National Monument offers a variety of recreational activities including hiking, wildlife viewing, backpacking, fishing, and camping.

Climbing the dunes is permitted, and monument officials recommend allowing 2-3 hours to hike to the top of the tallest dunes. They also recommend carrying adequate amounts of water and using sunscreen, especially in summer months. During summer months, the sand can reach temperatures of 140 degrees, so park officials recommend wearing shoes when hiking the dunes.

Summer temperatures at the park average 80 degrees during the day and lows may drop down into the 40s. During Fall, Winter and Spring months, expect moderate daytime temperatures and freezing to sub-zero temperatures at night.



As you enter the Great Sand Dunes from Medano Pass, the scenery quickly changes from rocky vistas and pine and aspen trees to an arid desert landscape.

People looking to add some adventure to their visit can use sleds or even skis or snowboards to "ski" the dunes.

Camping is permitted in the park at the Pinyon Flats Campground and is also available in nearby Medano Pass.

GETTING THERE

To reach the park, take I-25 South to Walsenberg, Colo. Take U.S. 160 West to U.S. 150 North to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Allow three hours driving time to reach the park.

An alternative route to reach the park is through Medano Pass. This route requires a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle. To get there, take I-25 South to Pueblo, Colo. From Pueblo

take Route 96 West to Westcliffe, Colo. Take Route 69 West 23.7 miles to Road 559, which will be on the right.

The Medano Pass road is a moderate 4-wheel-drive trail that can be accomplished by most sport utility vehicles. To reach the sand dunes, stay on 559 and follow the signs through Medano Pass.

The top of the pass approaches 10,000 feet and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding area.

A gated sign welcomes you to the park at approximately 8.5 miles. The gate is generally open, but check with the National Park Service to make sure before leaving on your trip.

Numerous campsites are

available along the trail, which follows Medano Creek. The trail actually crosses the creek several times, but the water is generally not deep, except during spring runoff.

Once you enter the park, the road becomes increasingly sandy and very soft. Lowering your tire pressure may be necessary to avoid becoming stuck in the sand.

For more information about the park, call the Great Sand Dunes National Monument at (719) 378-2312.

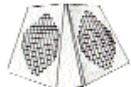
Outdoor Recreation has camping equipment like tents, sleeping bags and backpacking equipment to meet all of your outdoor recreational needs.

For more information call 556-4487.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano

The Great Sand Dunes National Monument features the tallest sand dunes in North America, standing more than 700 feet tall.



Can we play through?



Photo by Airman 1st Class Mike Meares

Golfers greet staff sergeants Jen Thielke, Dennis Fagnant, and Michelle Porter, as they descended on a Colorado Springs fairway recently. The three balloonists are space operators from Schriever Air Force Base who fly satellites during the week and hot air balloons on weekends.

Commentary:
C-H-I-E-F steps to success

By Master Sgt. Skip Haag
354th Communications Squadron

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- Just because you don't have eight stripes on each sleeve, doesn't mean you can't exemplify the qualities of a chief. Many leaders have helped my military career thrive by influencing me to be a better troop, sharing in my accomplishments and by helping me bounce back from failure. These leaders all shared five key qualities:

Candidness — There's no harm or no foul to tell it like it is. Tell your boss what he or she needs to hear, not what he or she wants to hear. Being candid doesn't necessarily mean yelling. Don't waste time being subtle, reserved, or by beating around the bush. Make your point. Encourage your troops to do the same by letting them use you as a sounding board, so they can get things off their minds. We can be candid while still maintaining respect for each other's rank and posi-

tion. To get business done, we need to get down to the "real deal." Candidness means less time on words and more time on deeds.

Humility — Don't forget where you came from, or your struggles while climbing the ladder of success. Remember what it's like to be the first-line troop or supervisor packing the gun on post, turning a wrench on the flightline, or working in the 24-hour messaging center? Subtle gestures like visiting your people in their work area, instead of having them come to your office all the time, makes a difference. Don't ask someone to do something that you're not willing to do yourself. Humility is also dropping what you're working on when a troop knocks on your door to talk. Without it, your troops are less likely to bring their problems to you.

Instinct — Use it. If you have a strong impulse about something, but didn't act, you didn't listen to your gut. Do you know when to seek forgiveness rather than ask permission? If you're doing something important without any definitive rules or regulations, it's better to go with your gut instinct instead of asking permission only to get burdened with "red tape." It's not a case of being deceptive or sly, but the desire to take advantage of an opportunity. If your instinct says you're being prudent, not reckless, just do it. As Gen. Colin Powell once said, "You don't

know what you can get away with until you try."

Endurance — Obstacles and challenges will increase in number and complexity during your career, but don't get overwhelmed with frustration. You must maintain your strength to handle "irons in the fire." There will be times in your career in which the day-to-day running of the mission may seem second priority. There's always some special project or a need for a project point of contact. You need to work hard to keep distractions from making you fail at your day-to-day contact with your troops. The greatest measure of success is how you use your energy, or endurance, to establish a pattern of excellence.

Fortitude — Don't take the easy way out even when given the chance. It's the ability to make a tough and unpopular call without fear of ticking somebody off. It's the courage to admit you made a mistake. It's also realizing when to salute smartly. Fortitude is having the mental toughness to overcome pain or adversity. I've been fortunate to have some great role models from which to learn, not only superiors, but subordinates as well.

Not everybody will reach the rank of chief master sergeant, but there's no doubt in my mind that following the steps of C-H-I-E-F will make you a successful leader and foster success in your career. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



21st SVS claims intramural soccer championship

The 21st Services Squadron intramural soccer team won the base soccer championship by beating the 21st Communications Squadron by a score of 2-1 at the soccer field July 12.

Both teams finished the regular season tied for the best record, making them co-champions for the season. The base championship game broke the tie.



Courtesy photos

Left: Mark Miller, 21st Services Squadron soccer team, lines up a shot during the championship game. Miller was recently accepted to the Air Force Soccer Training Camp.



Members of the 21st Services Squadron and 21st Communications Squadron intramural soccer teams fight for the ball during the base championship.

Sports and Field Day volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help run various Sports and Field Day events Aug. 14. Volunteers earn points toward their unit's total for the day. To volunteer or for more information, call the event monitor or your unit Sports and Field Day representative.

- 100 and 200 Yard Dash - 556-7040
- 5K Run, 5K Walk, and 10K Bike Race-556-4030
- Cribbage and Pinochle - 556-8001
- Darts - 556-6253
- Dominoes - 556-8001
- Billiards - 556-9091
- Softball - 556-7148
- Basketball - 554-7148
- Racquetball - 554-6672
- Table Tennis - 554-1751
- Horseshoes - 556-4803
- Tug-o-War - 556-9293
- Volleyball - 556-7980
- Bowling - 556-4940
- Golf - 55
- Swimming - 556-1737
- Soccer - 556-8970
- Skeet - 556-3599
- Doubles Tennis and Coed Tennis -556-4867

50 percent military discount at NASCAR races

Military members receive a 50 percent discount on a race day ticket at Pikes Peak International Raceway. Each adult must present a valid military ID at the time of purchase.



Above: Members of the 21st SVS and 21st CS soccer teams face off with a championship on the line.